



Meeting Minutes

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

Lee Hildebrand, DSW and Mimi Pinon, NP, Co-Chairs

June 9, 2011

Cicatelli Associates, 505 Eighth Avenue

3:00-5:00

**Members Present:** Randall Bruce, Martin Bruner, Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn, Jose Gonzalez, Jennifer Irwin, Rosemary Lopez, Ariel Negron, Jr., Jan Carl Park, Glen Phillip, Mimi Pinon, NP, Tamella McCowen, Marcy Thompson, Ricardo Vanegas-Plata, DDS

**Members Absent:** Angela Aidala, PhD, Terri Faulkner, Carlos Manuel Gonzalez, Lee Hildebrand, DSW, Sabina Hirshfield, PhD, Rebecca Kim, Barbara Kobrin, Julie Lehane, PhD, Frank Machlica, Leslie Mack, Donald McVinney, Freddy Molano, MD, Kate Sapadin, PhD

**NYC DOHMH Staff Present:** Carol Davin, Mary Irvine, DrPH, Taiwana Messam, Nina Rothschild, DrPH

**Public Health Solutions Staff Present:** Lauren Feldman Hay, Wilson Joseph

**Others Present:** Myron Gold, Max Jean, Mallory Marcus, Peter Messeri, PhD

**Material Distributed:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from the May 19, 2011 Meeting
- Needs Assessment Outline Prepared by Carol Davin
- Section on Barriers and Strategies to Address Them from 2002 PC Needs Assessment
- PSRA Service Category Scorecards 2007-2009
- 2008 San Francisco EMA HIV/AIDS Health Services Needs Assessment
- List of Possible CHAIN Report Topics
- June 2011 Month at a Glance
- Planning Council Calendar for June 2011

**Welcome/Introductions/Moment of Silence/Review of the Minutes:**

Committee Co-Chair Mimi Pinon welcomed meeting participants. Members introduced themselves. Guillermo Garcia-Goldwyn led the moment of silence. The minutes from the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted with changes to attendance and will be posted.

**Looking Forward: 2012 Needs Assessment Work Plan and Discussion:** Jan Carl Park explained that HRSA has asked us to produce more frequent needs assessments and noted that he has asked the Care, Treatment, and Housing Program to prepare a shell of what goes into a needs assessment. Carol Davin spoke about the needs assessment outline. The Roman numerals refer to different chapters. If a month or a year appears next to an item in the outline, we have already examined this issue with a presentation and discussion. The outline can be updated as fresh data come along.

Mr. Park noted that we have been looking at the needs assessments completed by other jurisdictions, such as San Francisco. He also reminded NA Committee members of the need to consider our suburban partners in Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam Counties, possibly via a set-aside chapter.

Some of the material to be included in the needs assessment already exists and could be presented to this Committee, including the Return to Care (RTC) survey and the results from the 10 focus groups around the City with PLWHAs conducted two winters ago. Convening new focus groups may not be necessary, as not a whole lot has changed during the intervening time, although DOHMH is considering doing a new series of focus groups on PLWHAs' experience with care coordination. Much of the epidemiologic data goes into our grant application, and we can borrow from the application and fit it in here. We can also invite people to present on topics not yet addressed.

Jennifer Irwin asked whether we will continue to address the same populations or whether we will move on and include new populations. Nina Rothschild noted that the populations are a moving target and that we may want to address the needs of other populations including recent releasees from jail/prison and people who are unconnected to care. Rosemary Lopez asked whether we would evaluate the effectiveness of service models. She remarked that ACQC couldn't apply for care coordination funding and that ACQC's clients, therefore, couldn't participate in medical case management (MCM). Accordingly, we don't know about whether MCM would have been effective for the population served by her agency. Martin Bruner put in a pitch for more systems analysis and less breaking down into discrete populations. He also noted the importance of avoiding drip (data rich and information poor) work.

**Looking Back: 2002 Needs Assessment Recommendations:** Nina

Rothschild called Committee members' attention to page 96 of the 2002 formal needs assessment, included in the meeting packet. Page 96 mentions several specific populations and problems (clients with multiple service needs, esp. women with children, the homeless, AODs, MICAs, immigrants/undocumented, recent detainees/releasees, and the unconnected; homelessness; lack of cultural sensitivity and stigmatization on the part of providers, specifically regarding youth, MSM, substance users, and those with mental illness); and lack of client knowledge, including a lack of understanding about how to access the health care system and misinformation concerning actual side effects from medications). Mr. Park suggested creating a document visually showing the information presented on page 96 – for example, how we addressed a specific need and when we addressed that need.

**CHAIN Paper Topics:** Dr. Mary Irvine of the Research and Evaluation Unit presented several possible topics for future CHAIN papers. She provided a brief introduction to the work of CHAIN and explained that the CHAIN study can inform us about the effects of services on outcomes. The Bureau's surveillance data, by contrast, are limited to reportable events (viral load, new diagnoses, opportunistic infections, mortality data), whereas CHAIN can ask questions about the experiences of people actually living with HIV/AIDS. Nina Rothschild agreed to distribute to Committee members a more complete list of the possible CHAIN topics.

**Public Comment:** Myron Gold stated that he was in the first CHAIN cohort. He mentioned the restrictions on currently-funded legal services, noting that these services can only help with eviction if the eviction is because of HIV-related discrimination. He also asked whether a needs assessment was ever completed on nutrition, noting that the Momentum Project and Bronx AIDS Services confront reduced funding and asking where their clients would go for services.